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Editor's Comment



AT long last the government has given the green light for £142.5m funding towards the £212m cost of building the controversial Western Link, which will release land for development and hopefully improve traffic flow around the town.

Notification of the funding announced by Transport Secretary Chris Grayling came via the regional Tory press office, quoting recently appointed Warrington South Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate Andy Carter – before anyone at the town hall had been given a heads up.

This is political points scoring at its very best – or worst depending on how you view it.

It clearly caught the town hall and local MP on the back foot – but at least we now know that the project can proceed, subject to meeting all the planning criteria e.t.c. which is bitter sweet, with many campaigning against the proposal, claiming it will blight their communities.

In the grand scheme of things we certainly do need major highway improvements to the town and this will certainly open up the potential of brownfield developments, hopefully taking the pressure off the Green Belt.

Meanwhile one could be forgiven for thinking the Borough Council's decision to approve the Draft Local Plan, releasing around 10 per cent of green belt land for housing and employment needs, was the green light for developers to put forward their plans.

Within a matter of days Eddie Stobart had re-submitted their

controversial plan to build a national distribution centre on green belt land at Appleton Thorn – previously rejected for various reasons, including being premature. Then a few days later Langtree submitted an application for another huge logistics distribution centre on neighbouring green belt land – both applications on the back of some limited public exhibitions and consultations. I remain far from

convinced these green field sites are the right place for major logistic developments. With many more homes already on the horizon, we need to make sure our infrastructure can cope, while at the same time addressing the serious pollution issues our town is facing before we even consider huge distribution centres on precious green belt land. We also need to ensure all existing empty warehousing sites and brownfield sites are used before ploughing up the green belt.

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Panto troupe prepare for extra special Vaudeville Show

AFTER another hugely successful year The Lymm Panto cast at Lymm Rugby Club are set to take to the stage again with their popular Vaudeville Show, which promises some very special guest appearances!

The team performed in front of a sell-out audience of over 1,600, raising over £30k for the Lymm Grass Roots Clubhouse Appeal last December.

No sooner was it over the scriptwriters and performing troupe were thinking about the 2019 summer spectacular, The Vaudeville Show!

Performed in Lymm Rugby Club's Summer Marquee on Friday June 14, this will be the Vaudeville Show's fourth consecutive year, with the objective of another sell-out!

Producer Simon Plumb said: "The quality of performance and therefore

audience expectation, has risen significantly since this show started, but the audience can look forward to another brilliant and exceptional night of entertainment at Lymm Rugby Club, all in aid of the Lymm Grass Roots Clubhouse Appeal - with some very special guest appearances.

To avoid disappointment reserve your tickets by emailing: fiona@spa-group.co.uk



Two new insurance and mortgage specialists join Amathus team

AMATHUS Financial Services has appointed two new insurance and mortgage specialists to its Warrington-based team.

Christopher Thorne and Jane Lister have joined the existing team at the Birchwood office and bring with them a wealth of property related experience.

Christopher said: "I'm very much looking forward to working with our clients to attain their goals whether they are looking to purchase their first home, thinking about equity release or looking to re-mortgage, we provide a bespoke service, tailored to the individual's needs."

Jane adds: "Our aim is to give our clients the best service and the most cost-effective solutions using the latest technology. We can source the best deals available on the market, everything from life cover to complex business protection as well as access to a comprehensive panel of mortgage

lenders."

Of the appointments, Lynne Lister, Managing Director of Amathus FS said; "We are delighted to welcome Jane and Christopher. Their individual skills complement those of our existing team and will enhance the service we offer to our clients."



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Student chefs bring home Gold from Welsh International Culinary Championships

STUDENT chefs from Warrington & Vale Royal College are celebrating after returning from the Welsh Culinary Championships with 22 medals, including the gold medal for the Inter-College team challenge.

The competition, which took place in Llandrillo, North Wales, saw 17 of the college's talented Hospitality & Culinary Arts students compete against hundreds of entrants to bring home an impressive 8 certificates of merit, 10 bronze medals, 5 silver medals and 7 gold medals.

Professional Cookery course leader Scott Surtees said: "This is the third time Warrington & Vale Royal College has competed in the Welsh International Culinary Championships. The past two years we came home with the silver medal so to be able to finally return with the gold medal, as well as an array of other awards too, is a brilliant achievement. It's testament to how passionate we are as a department, and as a college, about ensuring learners gain the essential practical skills, and the knowledge, to go on and succeed in the industry."

Winning menu

This year's Inter-College Team was made up of students Mikolaj Mozul, Dan Jones, James Tomkins and captained by course leader

Scott Surtees. Their winning menu consisted of four delicious courses made with ingredients from Birtwistles, Ribble Farm Fare and M&J Seafood.

Level 2 student Dan Jones said: "I competed in the Inter-College team challenge last year when we won the silver medal. As a team we were much stronger this year – we knew what to expect so were less nervous and determined to bring

home the gold medal. Competing in the Welsh Culinary Championships has inspired me to work harder to achieve my goal of opening my own restaurant."

Level 2 student Konrad Krasowski was also awarded two gold medals in the Knife Skills – Fruit Cuts and Butchery Skills – Cut Chicken for Sauté competition, and level 3 student Sara Lang-Harding won a gold medal in the Major Street

Food Challenge.

Scott added: "As well as giving our students the chance to prove themselves as chefs, competitions like this further enhance what we are teaching them in the kitchens and the classrooms. It also boosts their confidence massively and it is rewarding for us as a college to be able to see student's personal and professional development."




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High profile initiatives to further grow economy

by Steve Park – Director of Growth & MD of Warrington & Co

LAST month was crucial for Warrington & Co as we delivered several high profile initiatives to further grow the Warrington economy. We took over responsibility for the Apprenticeship & Jobs Fair from United Utilities and attracted up to 900 students and parents to the recently refurbished "Engine Rooms" at Birchwood Park. Warrington has some world class industry sectors, including Advanced Engineering which employs around 6,000 people across the Park. It is really important that we help companies such as Sellafield, Wood and Cavendish meet their future recruitment needs and this annual event certainly helps to do this.

I highlighted last time the first annual Business Exchange Conference which was successfully held at the Village Hotel. This will get bigger as the Exchange expands beyond the 200 members it secured in its first year. We'll probably move it to another month though so that it isn't as close to the Warrington Annual Property Review.

Whilst the Business Exchange is at the beginning of its journey, the Property Review is now in its 21st

year and once again attracted nearly 250 property professionals to the Park Royal Hotel. Speeches from Warrington Borough Council's Steven Broomhead (Chief Executive) and Russ Bowden (Leader) preceded BE Group's Vince Sandwell who covered the headlines from this year's report. Andy Farrall (Executive Director at the Council) gave an insightful presentation into the Council's refreshed economic growth programme Warrington Means Business, which will be finalised later this year. There were £140.2m investment deals made in 2018 with office take up increasing to 24,985 sqm. The Cheshire & Warrington economy is now worth

a staggering £30.9bn, with each person contributing £33,384 a year. This is 40% higher than the North West average and a clear sign that the region is performing strongly on a global scale.

Building homes on brownfield land is a key component of our Town Centre Masterplan and so it's encouraging to see the progress being made on the Winwick Street John Street residential development in the Stadium Quarter.

Spring will continue to present us with exciting opportunities across the Borough and we thank everyone for their ongoing enthusiasm and support.



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Steve Park
MD of Warrington & Co.

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Celebrating 1st anniversary in style

real5 Networking celebrated its first years trading in March with a special Birthday event at the Halliwell Jones stadium.

The last year has seen this innovative business networking group grow from a simple idea of Founder and MD, Andrew Hibbert, to what is very much reality. Now with 50 members, all Warrington based business leaders and a having referred nearly £5 Million in new business opportunities amongst the group, you can see why the real5 network is expanding to places such as Chester and Knutsford.

'To go from an idea on a scrap of paper, to be joined by Steve Price and Ben Westwood helping us to celebrate this years achievements is amazing, I'm thrilled with the group and looking forward to another successful year ahead.' said Andy.

Along with the Q&A with the Wolves, Member of the month Helen Davies of Easytots is pictured being presented with her award after receiving the Gold Standard Made for Mums Award for her range of innovative baby weaning products.



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Fri 26 Apr	From The Jam
Fri 3 May	Charlie Landsborough
Fri 17 May	An Evening with Mark Billy Billingham
Sat 18 May	Bringing on Back the 60s
Sun 19 May	Vienna Festival Ballet presents Coppelia
Fri 24 May	Sounds Familiar Music Quiz
Wed 29 May	John Cooper Clarke
Fri 31 May	Menopause The Musical
Sat 1 Jun	Money For Nothing
Fri 7 Jun	The ELO Show
Thu 13 Jun	Magnum
Fri 21 Jun	Rich Hall's Hoedown

Pyramid Box Office: 01925 442345
pyramid.culturewarrington.org

20 & 21 Apr	Justin Moorhouse - Northern Joker
Sat 4 May	Comedy Store
Fri 10 May	An Evening with Alan McGee
Sat 1 Jun	Comedy Store
Fri 7 Jun	Gary Delaney - Gagster's Paradise
Sat 29 Jun	Interviews with a Serial Killer

IN
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PARR Hall and Appnin Events have teamed up to put on an unrivalled weekend of classic tracks, and you're invited!

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Relive your youth by dancing the night away to disco, car wash and school disco classics on the Friday, and music from the likes of Diana Ross and The Supremes, The Isley Brothers, Harold Melvin and Jackie Wilson on the Saturday, all spun by the best quality DJs.

Car Wash Fridays - Friday 27 September / Motown Soul & Northern - Saturday 28 September 2019, doors 7.30pm, starts 8pm, £8 adv, £10 on the door.

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New queens at the double

RAVENBANK Primary School has the honour of providing both the Lymm May Queen and Rose Queen for this year's event on Saturday May 18.

The new May Queen will be 10-year-old Isobel "Issy" Boucher. Her parents are Karen Taylor who owns Jessobel Boutique in the village and David Boucher, tennis coach at Lymm Tennis Club.

She has two sisters Jessyca aged 13 and Harriet aged three.

Described as an outdoor girl Issy enjoys netball and cycling. Her best friends are Lucy, Lizzie and Jess.

Meanwhile the new Rose Queen will be Olivia Lombardi Brown, who is originally from Ft

Lauderdale in Florida, but moved to Lymm with her family when she was aged three.

She is an active member of Lymm twin Town Society, as well as having taken part in Lymm Transport Day parade for the past two years.

Olivia was honoured to be in the Rose Queen retinue last year. She enjoys horse riding and gardening with her grandmother.

She aspires to be a doctor and a environmentalist to help others

understand how to care for our natural environment.

Most weekends she can be seen walking around the village centre making sure she stops to greet

every passing dog!

Both girls are pictured with last year's May Queen Jasmine Clews, aged 12, a pupil at Lymm High School.



LYMM
MAY QUEEN

The Lymm Village historic May Queen festival is to take place on Saturday 18th May 2019.

It's going to be a fantastic day with lots of traditional things to do on the May Queen field following the procession through the village. The theme for 2019 is 'Music Through The Ages' with the procession commencing at 1pm.

- To book a stall/event on the field please contact dianekerfoot@gmail.com
- We need volunteers on the day, if you could spare some time please contact kjbuckley@hotmail.co.uk
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New look Heritage Café continues transformation

THE Heritage Café at Walton Hall & Gardens is continuing to undergo a transformation while catering for all tastes.

Now open seven days a week from 9.00am until 6pm, depending on the park's seasonal opening hours, the café's friendly staff aim to provide excellent customer service and welcome all visitors to the park.

This includes dog walkers and their dogs.

Work is ongoing to enhance the visitor experience, with new dining booths now installed and further improvements planned.

The Heritage Café menu continues to evolve, embracing veganism by introducing new and delicious products to their menu.

The original offering, which has become a favourite toasted sandwich for vegans and non-vegans alike is the Black Bun. Filled with Avocado, infused with crushed rock salt and fresh lemon juice, Vjolife vegan cheese, fresh tomato and rocket is really tasty - and is proving hugely popular.

Just a short distance from the excellent play area, it provides the ideal destination for pre-school children, or youngsters after school, walkers, or just to escape from the office for a bit of chill time.

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Cenotaph renovation gives insight into life in Warrington 100 years ago

AN insight into life in Warrington around 100 years ago has been uncovered during the ongoing renovation works being carried out to the town's cenotaph on Bridge Foot.

During the removal of the lower section of the cenotaph, two time capsules were found!

Unfortunately one of these had suffered extreme water damage and was beyond salvage, however the second time capsule was in very good condition.

Items recovered include two local newspapers dated 10th of October 1925, along with two Chamber of Commerce Year Books dating back to 1917 and 1918, along with old one pence pieces and a tram

token.

A spokesperson for the Cenotaph project team said: "The contents will be shared publicly very soon with the project team working with other sections and the museum to investigate how and where these can be displayed."

Meanwhile all of the stonework, including plaques and the actual cenotaph monument have now been removed to a safe storage location.

Works have now been completed on constructing the sheet piles to the river bank in order to carry out stabilisation of the area.

Removal of the Cenotaph monument was required in order to complete piling to stabilise the river bank. The scheme is expected to be completed for Remembrance

Day 2019.

The objective is to structurally improve the supporting river bank and wall that's situated to the north of the Cenotaph.

The scheme also involves upgrading the appearance around the monument, including improvements to paving, lighting and general access.

The scheme is being delivered on a design and build basis by contractors Balfour Beatty through the Scape Civil Engineering and Infrastructure Framework.

Balfour Beatty has engaged with the consultants Ramboll Ltd who have a specialist team of professionals with experience in delivering high profile heritage projects.

The Cenotaph is a Grade II listed monument and is part of the Bridge Street Conservation Area. Listed Building Consent and planning permission were required for the improvement works to take place.

The budget for the scheme is anticipated to be around £1.1m, which will be refined as the project develops. All expenditure is subject to Executive Board approval.



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Advertiser's announcement

Keep cool this summer with 4 Seasons Air Conditioning

By John Duggan – Director, 4 Seasons Air Conditioning

The sun is out, the temperatures are rising – could summer finally be on the way?

This is great news but maybe not if you were one of the many people who suffered in unbearably hot and stuffy offices last year. For many the memory of last year's heatwave will have been of baking offices and everyone huddled around ineffective desk fans trying to keep cool.

But there is an answer - air conditioning systems provide a constant and comfortable temperature whatever the weather is outside. It is often a lot more cost-effective than you may think, keeping your employees happy while also minimising your energy use and reducing both your utility costs and your carbon footprint.

Here we look at some of the benefits of air conditioning in the workplace.

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No one likes to feel hot and uncomfortable at work. We've all experienced that sluggish feeling that comes with the hot weather. Studies have shown that the energy our body uses trying to keep cool can affect our ability to think and reduce our productivity. And, as we

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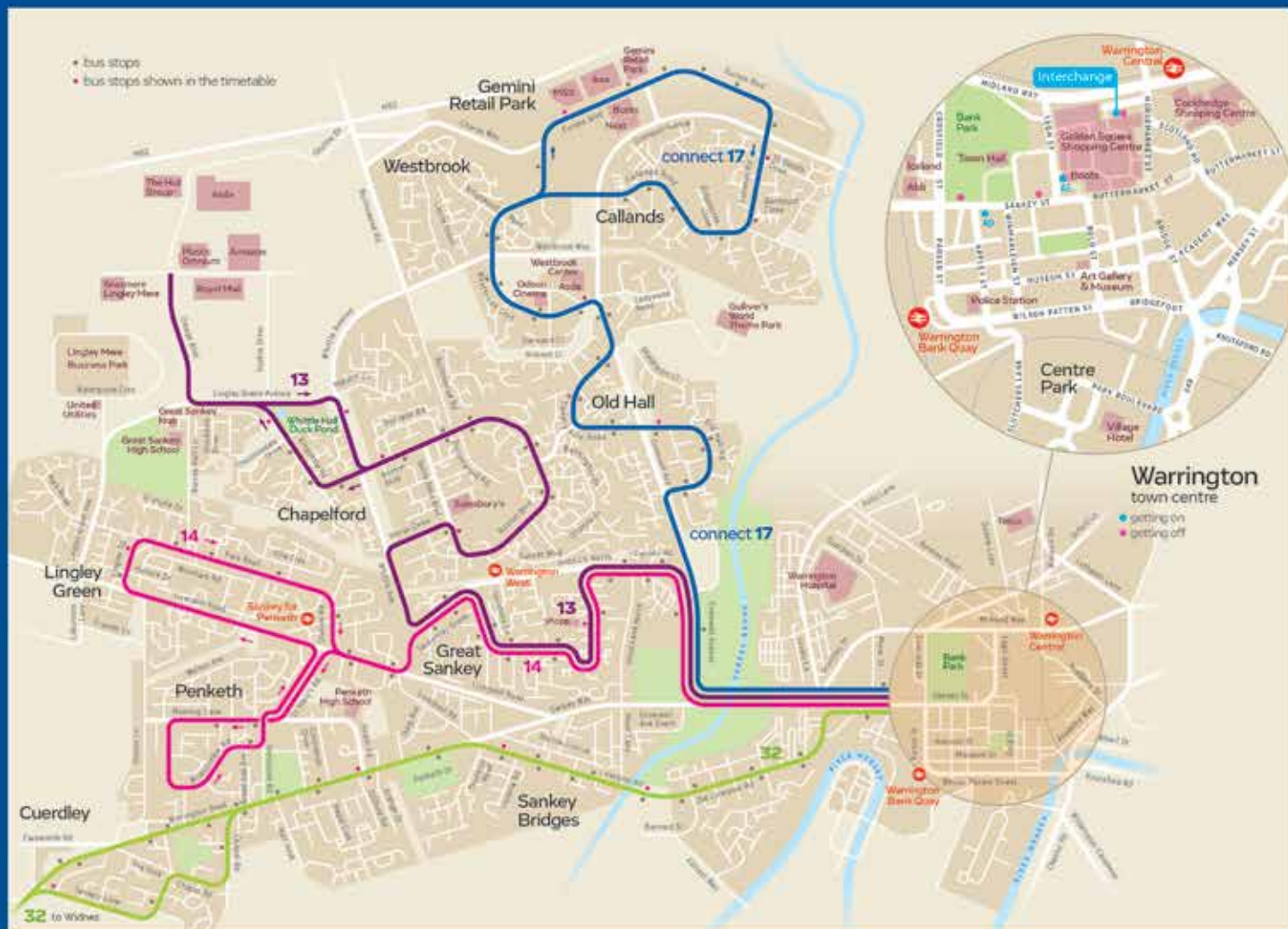
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Bus Service Changes from 28th April



Following a public consultation in West Warrington last year, bus services will be changing.

We've got new destinations and times as we continue to improve Warrington's Buses.

Full information, including some other minor changes to local bus services, can be found at www.warringtonsownbuses.co.uk in the news section.

Warrington's
own buses



Plans submitted for new, state-of-the-art bus depot



PLANS have been submitted for a new, state-of-the-art bus depot for Warrington.

If approved, the development would take place in Dallam Lane, Warrington – and would replace the existing depot on Wilderspool Causeway which is run by council-owned bus company, Warrington’s Own Buses.

The move will enable the company to expand its modern fleet and recruit more drivers and technical staff, providing room for 20 additional buses, increasing the fleet to 140.

Warrington’s Own Buses managing director Ben Wakerley said: “This is a vital next step in ensuring the town has the most

efficient and technically-advanced fleet possible.

“It will enable us to improve conditions for our hard-working colleagues and ensure that we can continue to improve the service for our passengers.”

Applicant Wire Regeneration, is a joint venture between Warrington Borough Council and developer Langtree that has been tasked with bringing about the wholesale regeneration of the town’s Southern Gateway.

The first project in its wider masterplan, the construction of 160 new homes on the site of Warrington RLFC’s former Wilderspool stadium, was recently granted planning permission. This latest move, says Langtree group development director Neal Biddle, is the next major step in delivering its proposals, the relocation of the bus depot freeing up a key site.

He said: “This is a key site within our masterplan and if permission is granted for the new depot will allow us to bring forward proposals for major civic space and more homes.”

If planning permission is granted the new depot would be complete and operational by the summer of 2021.

Bus Service changes in the town

WARRINGTON’S buses will see a change from April 28 as the latest bus consultation round comes to an end. Most changes are in West Warrington, but there are some in other areas too.

The 32 will extend to Widnes Market and becomes ‘The BlueLine’ with a more direct route, replacing the withdrawn MD Link service.

The 13 is extended to serve the new Warrington West Station, Sankey Hub Complex and Omega.

14 and 15 merge and will operate as per the former route, once the Stocks Lane closure completes.

A new shopper bus 33 serving Westbrook & Gemini directly from West Warrington is introduced as a weekly trial and needs residents to use this service in order to prove the concept.

Cheshire Cat is retimed to improve punctuality.

Service 22 extends to Ashton.

Minor timetable changes to the 3 and 4.

Additional journeys will be placed onto the 62 to replace those withdrawn.

The BlueLine will kick off with a new, reduced price weekly ticket. The details of these changes, maps and new timetables are on the website: warringtonsownbuses.co.uk/news

Ben Wakerley, MD of Warrington’s Own Buses said: “Residents asked us for new destinations and direct connections, as well as a fare reduction. These changes demonstrate that we continue to listen and to improve the town’s buses.”

Knock down those walls for a *Light and Bright kitchen*



Maximising the light in your home is just one way to make it appear bigger and more welcoming. There are few ways you can do this, depending on your budget and the space you have to play with. For example adding reflective surfaces, silk paints and clever use of mirrors help to bounce the light around a room, so are great for smaller budgets. Some projects though, require a more drastic solution, in this case a sledgehammer!

Dave Charlton from JD Kitchens explained their approach to this stunning kitchen.

“Our customers had inherited a kitchen with a brick feature pillar which divided the rooms and robbed them of light. Removing it gave the opportunity to open up the kitchen and create a dream home. We continued to use light loving materials throughout the kitchen to enhance the space, selecting white glass doors from the Next125 range of kitchens.

To further streamline the kitchen, we designed it with no handles, even removing them from the dishwasher and the end panels were designed to match seamlessly and maintain the integrity of the bespoke kitchen”.

A Silestone worktop in coral grey contours around the kitchen adding depth and warmth, whilst the moulded sink in the same material, melts seamlessly into the worktop. A Blanco tap completes the high end appeal”.

Finally, the kitchen was completed with German engineered NEFF appliances included a self-cleaning slide&hide oven, compact oven with microwave, flex induction hob, canopy extractor and dishwasher.

If you’re looking for a kitchen transformation and want a team that can do the whole project, beginning to end call in to see Dave at JD Kitchens, Gorsey Lane Warrington or call 01925 636997 for a free no obligation consultation.



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Local charity celebrates winning High Sheriff's Award for Enterprise

LOCAL charity Warrington Disability Partnership is celebrating after winning the High Sheriff of Cheshire's Award for Enterprise.

Team WDP were presented with the Award during a special event at Chester Race Course.

Chief Executive Dave Thompson said: "After the award was announced we were informed that the Enterprise Award category received the most nominations, we had beaten nearly 50 very high calibre entries from small, medium and large businesses from across Cheshire.

"Just to have reached the shortlist was an outstanding achievement, but when it was announced that we had won, it felt absolutely amazing. We all went on stage to collect the Award on behalf of Team WDP, we all felt very proud.

"Looking back to 2011, just 8 years ago, we knew then that we had to adopt business strategies in order to survive, what was then a prediction of years of austerity. Our response was to launch the Disability Trading Company.

"It's worth reflecting that turnover in our first year was less than £40,000, and 8 short years later we are on the cusp of topping £1 million turnover for 2018/19 (just from DTC).

"This success is a testament to

the hard work and dedication of our team, including volunteers, staff and board members.

"During this time, we have sometimes struggled to find a balance between the use of business acumen and the values based ethical philosophy of our charity. However, we continue to receive positive feedback from our customers and our partners in statutory services including the

NHS and Local Authorities, and we continue to increase our turnover and profitability year on year, profit that is donated to WDP to help support our day to day activities.

"This award underlines our continuing development as a social enterprise, and it will no doubt add credibility to our ongoing work, opening many more new avenues of corporate support," added Dave, who helped set up

the charity more than two decades ago after breaking his neck in a freak sporting accident, playing American Football.

The award comes with a £10,000 education bursary, sponsored by the University of Chester.

Dave added: "Finally, congratulations to everyone at Team WDP, we should all feel very proud in this achievement."



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MORE THAN A MARKET



5 Star Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Hard work, paying attention to detail and dedication are just three of the key elements that are the foundation to running a successful business says Warrington company director Adrian Johnson-Taylor.

And Adrian should know a thing or two about building an organisation that has travelled up the ladder of success as he owns a Warrington-based company that is proudly celebrating its milestone 30th anniversary this month.

Adrian founded Woolston-based 5 Star Catering Equipment Hire Ltd in May 1989. Since its doors opened the company has grown from strength to strength. In fact, 5 Star now provides its bespoke service nationally and it's down to hard work that has firmly placed this Warrington company amongst the biggest of its kind in the region.

In this field of expertise, Adrian explains: "Every job is different and it's very important that my team concentrate on the smallest detail. A high quality, prompt service has been the backbone to our success. Whatever you require, the service and experienced attention will always be the same." Said Adrian. "We have an extensive product range that is expanding all the time and it's priced to suit all requirements and budgets."

He added "Our equipment will complement any event, ranging from major corporate events to small house parties. We pride ourselves on making sure our customers receive the same experienced attention. We go over every aspect of a function ensuring such items as table linen or teaspoons are not 'overseen' – it does happen! Believe me, we know our way around any type of function. Our priority is to make your event a success."

Dedication is also a must, Adrian explained that a sizable chunk of 5 Star's time involves the setting up and clearing of events that largely takes place outside office hours and weekends. "Flexibility is another essential key. For example, we have a call-out service that can replace broken down kitchen equipment at short notice, allowing restaurants, hotels and pubs to operate as usual, keeping any disruption to a minimum. You have to be dedicated to work the hours we do!"

Adrian's wife Wendy and his dedicated '5 Star team' allow him to concentrate fully on running a smooth business operation.

5 Star has played its part at major golfing events including the Masters in America, the Ryder Cup in Ireland and the annual Open Championship. Other events include Wimbledon Tennis Tournament, music festivals, motor and horse racing meetings. 5 Star has also supplied catering equipment for many celebrity functions.

Adrian added: "I am proud to achieve thirty years running a successful business in our town and I'm particularly proud to have been able to provide jobs for local people spanning three decades - and long may it continue!"



Director Adrian Johnson-Taylor.



Adrian and his dedicated 5 Star team.

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"Fit to Tackle" team lose a total of 37 stone

WARRINGTON residents aiming to kick weight worries into touch are celebrating after losing a combined 37 stone on LiveWire's hugely popular free 12-week "Fit To Tackle" programme.

Thirty three people enjoyed their final bootcamp session at Warrington Wolves' Halliwell Jones Stadium when the scales showed a combined group weightloss of 37st 3lbs (236.3KG) with 24 people (73 per cent of participants) shedding at least 5 per cent of their body weight.

Participants completed three exercise sessions a week, as well as other events aimed at improving their mental health and wellbeing such as a moving talk, from former Rugby League star Danny Sculthorpe, about his battle with depression and a nutrition advice session from Chester University's Dr Tom Butler.

Tom Kearney lifestyles advisor at

LiveWire and Fit To Tackle coach said: "Our latest cohort have done fantastically well over the past 12 weeks.

"The results are really impressive, but the difference I can see in individuals from when they started, far exceeds this. I'm really proud of everyone that has taken part, and I've got every confidence that they will continue with their improved lifestyles.

"We are running straight into the next programme and are looking forward to meeting the new intake, setting them on course to continue where the last group left off."

Participants paid tribute to the programme and to LiveWire's Fit To Tackle coaches and the volunteer mentors who have supported them throughout the three months.

Sue Clerkin, 48, from Orford, said: "This course has changed my life. I'm fitter than I've been in years, lost weight but also gained friends and confidence."



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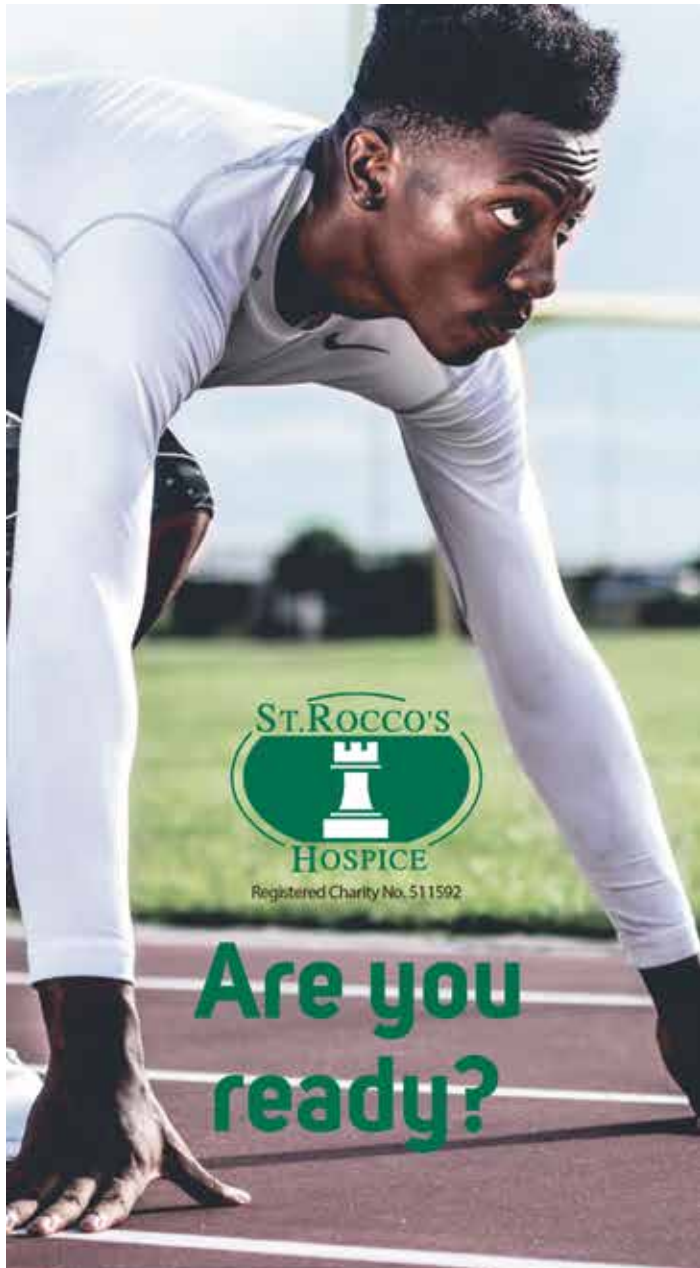
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Are you ready?

St. Rocco's Will Week

13th – 17th May 2019

It's fair to say that none of us really like to think about a time when we're no longer here. But making a Will and setting your affairs in order now is one of the best things you can do to make life easier for your loved ones when that time comes. You'll also have piece of mind knowing that whatever you have to leave will go exactly where you want it to go.

So why not book an appointment with one of our participating local solicitors during St. Rocco's Will Week?

They will waive their usual fee in return for your donation to support patient care at St. Rocco's.

www.stroccos.org.uk
01925 575780



Are you ready for St Rocco's Will Week?



Jenny Stewart from HCB Solicitors gets on her bike for St. Rocco's.

LOCAL solicitors who have volunteered their services for this year's St. Rocco's Will Week are certainly ready, including Jenny Stewart from HCB who dropped into St. Rocco's on her bike recently!

From May 13-17 participating local solicitors, including Cribbin & Co, FDR, Dootsons, Fiona Bruce, Steels, Willetts Marsden and Watsons and HCB, will be waiving their usual fee for drawing up a Will and asking for a donation towards patient care at St. Rocco's instead.

It's fair to say that nobody really likes to think about a time when we're no longer around but making a Will is one of the best things you can do to make life easier for your loved ones when that time comes.

Having a Will means that, should something happen to you, your wishes are known. As well as financial considerations, Wills can include important details such as who you would like to care for your children or specific items that you would like to give to someone.

So, are you ready? If not, book an appointment now with one of the participating solicitors listed above.

Then you can get on with life knowing you've made plans for the future and helped to support those in your community being cared for by St. Rocco's.

You can find more information on the St. Rocco's website, www.stroccos.org.uk/events/will-week-2019/ or phone 01925 575780.

Meanwhile don't forget registrations are taking place for the St Rocco's Starlight Walk on Friday June 21.

Registration costs £15 until the end of April and is a great way of bringing together friends and family for a girl's night out. You can sign up now at www.starlightladieswalk.co.uk

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Pizza parlour aims to send customers into outer space!

THE owners of Cheshire Pizza in Grappenhall, Warrington, Konrad Sedziak and Malgorzata Mrozek have teamed up with local resident Marc Dolton to help get their customers and pizzas into space!

Marc visited Cheshire Pizza one evening and started telling Konrad and Malgorzata about his plans to send items into space.

Konrad was interested straight away and looked into being the first person and business in the UK to send pizza into space.

Now a collaboration between Cheshire Pizza and Get Me To Space has developed.

Marc said: "I have always been interested in space and came up with the concept of "Get me to space" while doing some browsing on the internet. I love space, science and all things geek that are a little out of the box.

"The stranger the better in my mind. I was just having a look at the cost of sending anything to space, it turned out that sending just about anything was expensive and out of reach of a normal guy like me.

"Then I stumbled across something called a micro satellite and saw that anyone could buy one. It was still on the expensive side, so I thought about how I could at least send a piece of myself to space.

"Then the idea popped into my

head, I could become a microscopic astronaut a "Micronaut" by actually sending a hair sample into space with my very own DNA in it.

"A hair sample fits all of the criteria for a perfect payload on a rocket, Small, light and contains my very own personal blueprint. But this would still be expensive on my own so why not ride share and split the cost?"

So Getmetospace.space was born!

Anyone who would like to know more about how you can send an item or your DNA into space, either call into Cheshire Pizza 177c Knutsford Road, Grappenhall WA4 2QL or contact Get Me To Space - www.getmetospace.co.uk



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Financially yours

By David Watkinson

VAT confusion

One area of confusion for VAT registered traders who either employ someone or use sub-contractors or other self-employed individuals, apart from the current "Making Tax Digital" debacle, is whether they can claim back the VAT incurred on expenses incurred but invoiced to those employees, sub-contractors or other self-employed individual, examples of which are salesmen, actors, and other casual workers.



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

A fundamental principle of VAT is that only the person to whom the supply was made can make a valid reclaim of the VAT incurred. However, this may be different to the person who has paid for the supply or who holds the relevant invoice or other documentary evidence. This has been brought to the fore recently when legal fees were incurred in the name of the company's director, but more frequently relate to motoring and travel costs or small tools and purchases made "on-site".

Looking at sub-contractors and other self-employed individuals first, it is normal that if that person is himself VAT registered then he will reclaim the VAT. Also, if he has quoted for the work inclusive of labour and materials then the cost of those materials, and associated VAT, are incurred by him.

Another factor is whether the individual works for more than one contractor at the same time. This may, for instance, apply to a salesman who in the course of a day may represent several companies. Under these circumstances, the expenses cannot be attributed to a specific contractor, and so the expense, and associated VAT, again are incurred by the individual.

However, many sub-contractors are "employed" by one company on a labour only basis and are paid in the same manner as an employee on an hourly rate or on a piece-work (ie commission) rate. Under these circumstances, and provided that the individual does not receive any direct payments from the end customer, the tax office will treat them on the same basis as employees for the purpose VAT input recovery. Therefore, the following statement applies to employees, including directors of one-man companies, and labour only sub-contractors and self-employed individuals who work for one company. For simplicity, we will refer to these as employees.

If an expense is incurred by an employee in the course of his employment then, provided the expense is fully paid or reimbursed by the employer then the employer can treat the expense as being incurred by themselves even if supplier raised his invoice in the name of the employee.

Phew, I nearly gave a high-five and shouted "simples" after writing that last paragraph, but whilst that final statement may indeed sound simple the previous three paragraphs have formed the basis of many disputes between the taxpayer and the tax office!

WatkinsonBlack have considerable experience in all areas of taxation and business services, including the provision of a very cost-effective payroll bureau service. If you want to arrange a no-obligation initial meeting on any business matter then please contact us. Please note that these ideas are intended to inform rather than advise and you should always obtain professional advice before taking any action.

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Soccer star returns to his old school to open new pitch

ASTON Villa and Wales defender James Chester, returned to his former school, Birchwood High School, Warrington, to open their newly refurbished third generation artificial grass pitch today.

The refurbished full-size pitch was made possible thanks to investment from the Premier League, The FA and Government, through their charity, the Football Foundation.

After netting a £367,235 grant from the Football Foundation, the refurbishment of the pitch began in December last year. The school also contributed £90,000 from school funds to make the project possible.

The existing floodlit all-weather pitch was installed in 2010, but due to on-going quality issues was rapidly deteriorating, which led to its closure for community use in 2017.

This forced partner clubs Birchwood Juniors FC and Woolston Rovers FC to find other pitches for matches and training. Both clubs can now return home.

The new pitch will also provide students with a first-class playing surface for use throughout the school day in PE lessons, for school sports teams and extracurricular clubs.

Bournemouth AFC and Wales winger David Brooks and Bristol City midfielder Josh Brownhill both also attended the school and will act as inspiration for the next generation of footballers in the community.

Headteacher Moira Bryan said: "We are absolutely delighted that through support from the Premier League, The FA and Government we are able to open our new 3G pitch. Our young people in school, the local community and grassroots sport in Warrington will all be able to benefit greatly from this facility."

Boteler student lands top Eton College rowing scholarship



A YEAR 10 student at Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School has received a rowing scholarship at Eton College.

Iffy Marinos, who rows with Warrington Youth Row, will train there in the gym and on Dornay Lake, where the college team train and where the Olympic rowing events take place.

Iffy said: "It wasn't something I was expecting. I am still in a bit of shock."

There were only six spaces available for students in the country.

Boteler Headteacher Mrs Scott-Herron said: "It is a real privilege to be Iffy's Headteacher and to be a part of her rowing journey. She is exceptionally talented and an inspiration to our younger rowers and her peers."

"She will definitely be in the Boteler history books and we look forward to seeing her progress within rowing, as her future looks so bright."

"I really admire Iffy, her spirit and her determination as she never gives up. I am really proud of her and it certainly brought a tear to my eye seeing her reaction today."

Iffy was also part of a group that met Mark Davies, the chairman of British Rowing, at the school last month.

Priestley crowned county champions



Priestley College, Warrington won the John Sleigh (Cheshire) Cup recently defeating West Cheshire College 3-0.

The win at county level came just a week after the team reached the final of the national AoC Cup, which will be played in May.

Captain Jamie Smith, a former pupil at King's School Academy, said: "West Cheshire came out with a game plan to intimidate and frustrate us, but we kept our cool and played some of the best football we've played all year."

The only goal of the first half was scored by Scott Gatley, a point-blank finish after the keeper spilled a dangerous Tom Kirkpatrick free kick.

After that West Cheshire earned a couple of dangerous shots on target, but an in-form Josh McMurtrie pulled off two world class saves to keep the score at 1-0.

During the second half McMurtrie prevented the ball from flying into the top corner with another impressive save before Josh Sigsworth came off the bench to fire a shot hard and low under the keeper to make it 2-0.

With the game being controlled by Priestley's midfield and defence, Jamie Smith found some space and produced a lovely through ball for Jack Smith who slotted neatly past the goalkeeper.

"The whole team were amazing from start to finish and every player contributed to this victory," said Priestley's Football Academy manager Dan Jordan.

"It means we go into the national finals with our confidence high, believing we can be the best college team in the country."

Priestley compete in the Association of Colleges National Cup Final at Bescot Stadium Walsall on May 1. In July the team travel to the United States to play in the New York City Cup, an international scholarship tourname

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